

commercial cities, she produces little more of these than enough for the consumption of her own population, with fine grazing grounds and choice breeds, her sheep and cattle (with but few exceptions) reach their destination, so reduced in number and condition as scarcely to justify the low prices which the farmer receives for them.

The productions of the dairy and of the farm yard of which immense quantities might be made, are limited chiefly to the domestic wants of the owner. Of the produce of the rivers, which abound in the finest shell and scale fish—the oyster alone, forms an article of export of much consequence. Of ship timber, lumber and fuel, large quantities are annually sent from the more southern counties, and of these the article of fuel more especially. But the supplies heretofore derived from the shores are sensibly diminishing, and the expenses consequent upon their transportation on defective roads act equally injuriously on the consumer and seller.

The want of a general line of communication (the influence of which upon the co-operative power of a people is evident) is every where felt. Owing to the natural obstacles which its deeply indentated coast interposes, such a line cannot be profitably kept up by water, and there are no materials for turnpike roads; it must, therefore, be by rail roads, for which the Peninsula is peculiarly suited by its evenness of surface, and the abundance and excellence of its timber, the consequent cheapness of construction and the facility with which they may be extended.

The local business of such a road in conveying passengers and in transporting commodities of various kinds could not be very inconsiderable. That the freight upon foreign articles consumed by the 200,000 inhabitants of the Peninsula alone, must constitute an item of some consequence, and that it would be to the interest of the small capitalist, to bring their goods by that conveyance, needs not, I should think, much argument, after what has already been said. The impulse too, which the road would give to social, political and mercantile intercourse among the inhabitants of many of the counties, now almost debarred of communication with each other, the facility of communicating with the great commercial cities with the least possible waste of time or money, the inducements which many places